

least partially covering the end of the corresponding horizontally extending siding strip;
^{placing atop = interest}
 vertically orienting said elongated siding component having first and second
 opposed receivers adjacent to the wall;
^{interest}
 inserting a first end of a first one of said plurality of horizontally extending
 siding strips in one of said first or second receivers;
^{interest}
 inserting a second end of a second one of said plurality of horizontally
 extending siding strips in the other of said first or second receivers;
 affixing the first and second siding strips to the wall. 6/2

Remarks

In the Office Action dated Sept. 17, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-13, 17 and 18. The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 14-16 were allowable if amended to independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration of the instant application.

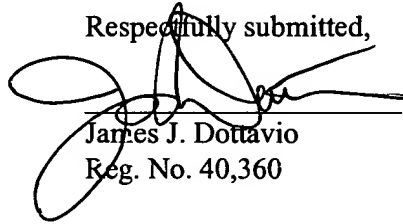
Consistent with the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 14 were allowable, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to include the limitations of claims 5 and 14, respectively, and Applicants have canceled claims 5 and 14. Applicants have also amended claim 17 to include limitations consistent with amended claim 1, and therefore believe claim 17 is allowable as amended, as well as claims 1 and 11, and the remaining claims dependent from claims 1, 11 and 17.

If any fees are required pertaining to this response, Applicant request that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE".

Accordingly, Applicants believe all remaining claims are allowable and request expeditious allowance thereof. If the Examiner has any questions, Applicants request the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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17. (twice amended) A method for installing a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips on a wall, comprising:

providing an elongated siding component having first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and having an outwardly bowed portion, each receiver adapted for receiving a portion of at least one of the plurality of horizontally extending siding strips along the substantially planar wall , and an outwardly bowed portion, wherein each receiver is substantially U-shaped and includes a first wall for at least partially covering the end of the corresponding horizontally extending siding strip;

vertically orienting said elongated siding component having first and second opposed receivers adjacent to the wall;

inserting a first end of a first one of said plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in one of said first or second receivers;

inserting a second end of a second one of said plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in the other of said first or second receivers;

affixing the first and second siding strips to the wall.